

Little Bridges News

August 2019



Calendar of Events

CLOSED – Staff Training

Friday 8/9
Monday 8/12

Orientation

8/12 9:00am – 9:45am

First Day of School

Tuesday 8/13

Back-To-School-Night

(No children please)

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Thursday 8/29

CLOSED – Labor Day

Monday 9/2

Fall Picture Days

Mon 9/16 & Tue 9/17

Enrichment Classes

Soccer Shots

Mondays

Pivotal Training

Tuesdays

Kinderdance

Wednesdays

Tuff Tumblers

Thursdays

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services &

Sunday School

8:45 & 10:15

Teacher Training/In-Service Days

Little Bridges will be closed on Friday, August 9th and Monday, August 12th for teacher training/in-service days. We will be using these days to go through safety training, curriculum, and team building exercises.

Orientation Day - Monday, August 12th

New Student Orientation Day will be held August 12th. Any child transitioning into a new room on August 13th is invited to check out their new classroom. We hope that a brief visit with your child's new teachers and environment will help make for an easy transition on their first day of school. The Giraffes, Jaguars, Koalas, Pandas and School Age classes will have a morning orientation time from 9:00am – 9:45am. Because this is a teacher training/in-service day, we have to keep the orientation brief.

Back to School Lunch Gathering

Canyon Creek Church is having a Back To School Lunch Gathering on Sunday, August 11th. Please join us for food, games and activities after the second service. The main course will be provided. Bring the whole family and a side dish or dessert to share.

Parking Lot Safety

Please drive **SLOWLY** through our parking lot and back up **SLOWLY** when pulling out of a parking spot. There are so many little children coming and going and they are hard to see.

Updated Emergency Forms

All enrollment and emergency forms are due! We must have updated forms filled out every school year. Packets were sent to your home last month with all required forms. If you have not turned in your 2019/2020 forms in yet, please do so ASAP.

Back to School Night - Thursday, August 29th

Back-to-School-Night for all preschool classes is scheduled for Thursday August 29th from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

This is a time for teachers to discuss the class curriculum, the daily schedule, and the objectives for the year. I hope you plan on attending this very informative night. **This night is for parents only please.** Parents can go straight to their child's classrooms.

Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say

“I wish you’d get dressed.” “I think you should start on your homework.” “It would be nice if you cleaned your room.” Be good.”

Fuzzy statements like these leave kids wondering exactly how they should respond—and if your kids are anything like my kids they will interpret them at face value—which leads to battles. Here are a few tips to help you mean what you say and say what you mean.

Say Please

Saying please softens our request and when followed with a call to action it can get a kid moving. Adding a “thank you” in closing with your expectation also helps insure that your child will follow your request. “Please take the trash out before dinner. Thank you.” The added benefit here is that you are modeling the behavior you want your child to learn.

Be Specific

When I say, “Clean your room,” my children hear, “Shove everything under your bed so I can’t see it.” In essence, my kids are doing what they were told. Prevent this miscommunication (or manipulation) by being very clear. “Please put your toys in the bins, the books on the shelf, and the dirty clothes in the hamper.” Now THAT is clear.

Think

I often hear parents make half-hearted requests of their children, and when their kids do not respond they just drop it. Usually this happens over little issues and I believe parents drop it because they feel it’s not worth fighting over. The problem is a child gets in a habit of ignoring their parents—on both little issues and big ones. Adults in charge *have* to follow through—it is key to respect and discipline. The next time you find yourself debating whether to drop something you have already said—take a breath, take a few seconds, think and then be both clear about your request and willing to follow through to the end.

Eye-to-Eye

How often do you call to your child from another room and expect her to listen? Do you then follow up with, “Did you hear me?” Instead, take the time to get eye-to-eye with your child. Make a clear, specific request and ask, “What do I need?” When your child tells you what you said it helps her to remember. For example, your child is in the other room playing. Go to her, look her in the eye and say, “Mara, please take the trash out before dinner. Now, what do you need to do?” When Mara says, “I need to take the trash out before dinner.” She has given herself clear instructions and is likely to follow through.

Follow Through

Be prepared to follow through with what you say, especially when making consequences. “If you can’t listen, then we are NOT going to Disney Land for Christmas!” This is dangerous for many reasons. 1) The consequence has nothing to do with the behavior. 2) The consequence is days, if not months, away from being handed out. 3) Your child may be shocked into behaving for the moment, but will eventually figure out you didn’t really mean what you said. 4) You have probably already pre-paid for the hotel and you know you would never cancel the family vacation. *Don’t make idle threats.* It confuses your child—how are they to figure out when you are serious or not? Make it easy on them (and you)—think before you speak/react and then follow through with what you say

Pick Your Battles

Parenting is a 24-hour a day job. If you try to deal with every issue, fix every problem, and be a constant teacher and coach, you will drive yourself crazy. Before you open your mouth, take a minute to decide if the issue is worth a battle. If *you* decide it is—then win at all costs. This will prevent you from choosing the wrong battle, realizing it in midstream and backing down because it’s really not that important. The danger is that your child doesn’t know you’ve changed your mind due to a better decision. He just figures you changed your mind because he put up a darn good fight—which leads him to try again the next day and the next. Fight the important battles, use skill, a level head and most importantly—WIN. It is good for you and best for your child.